

Bombay, July 6.

"Let us have an end to this non-Congress nonsense", exclaimed Mr. M. R. Masani, MP, Deputy Leader of the Swatantra Party in Parliament, while addressing the Progressive Group here this afternoon. The speaker was referring to the so-called "non-Congress Governments" in various States all of which, according to him, were a failure except those in Orissa and Madras. "What have we, who are consistent democrats and nationalists, got in common with the Left Communists in the West Bengal Government who are responsible for brutal violence and terror and who are creating in Naxalbari a Vietnam within our own country?" he asked.

Mr. Masani dealt with what he described as "the democrats' dilemma" which faces the Swatantra Party and other democratic elements in this country. If the Congress Government continued in office at the Centre, the current drift to disaster would continue unchecked. If, on the other hand, the Congress Government were replaced by a "non-Congress" coalition, disruptive forces would muscle in and the coming of chaos would only be accelerated.

According to Mr. Masani, there was a third alternative and that was a Government of Democratic Unity excluding the Communist parties. This was the alternative which the Swatantra Party was working for. The process of popular education was proceeding and, in course of time, would create a climate for the establishment of such a Government in which a large number of members of the Congress Party could cooperate with democratic Opposition parties. Unfortunately, observed Mr. Masani, "Congressmen are the backward children in our political school" and will take some time to be educated to these realities. Time, however, was running out. "There is a race between the intelligence and the patriotism of the Indian people on the one hand and economic collapse and political chaos on the other. There is an even chance of survival."

According to Mr. Masani, the entire class of politicians and the system of Parliamentary democracy was on trial. There was a general feeling that Government and Parliament were letting the country down. If politicians and political parties did not pull themselves together in time, they would be thrown into the dustbin of history like their counterparts in Pakistan, Ghana and Indonesia. In this context, he described the Congress Government of today as "a set of Soukarnos who are clinging to power after they have lost the confidence of the people."

The Congress Government in Delhi was altogether out of tune with public opinion. Never had there been so wide a gulf between the two as over the Indian Government's utterly biased and unfair attitude towards West Asia. In that connection, Mr. Masani welcomed the rejection by the U.N. General Assembly of the Indo-Yugoslav resolution and the wider support received by the Latin American proposal.

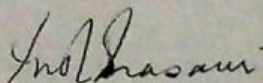
Mr. Masani described the situation in West Bengal as a challenge to the country's patriotism. Either the United Front Government has without further delay to restore order in Naxalbari and eliminate disruptive pro-Peking elements within its ranks or it must go. Any further tolerance of the growth of guerilla conditions within our country would mean major bloodshed later as in Vietnam. The events in Telengana, which did not have a common frontier with Communist China, would look like a picnic in comparison. Mr. Masani disclosed that



the Swatantra Party in Parliament proposed to send a study team to Naxalbari in order to make an on-the-spot investigation and assessment of the situation.

Mr. Masani did not see much to choose between the Peking and the Moscow Fifth Columns in the country. He advised his listeners to read a most revealing book recently published in India entitled "Moscow's Hand in India" which shows the massive Soviet infiltration in the Indian Press and proves that the Soviet Embassy in Delhi is clearly guilty of flagrantly violating the "Third Country Rule" which all diplomatic missions were supposed to observe. Unfortunately, the present Congress Government had become more and more a satellite of the Soviet Union and could not be expected to check such fifth - column activities.

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(M. R. Masani)